

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
23 June 2005 (23.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/056434 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B65G 35/06**,
13/11, 39/10, 37/02, 47/54

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2004/005159

(22) International Filing Date:
10 December 2004 (10.12.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0328672.1 10 December 2003 (10.12.2003) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
GENOME RESEARCH LTD [GB/GB]; The Sanger
Institute, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton,
Cambridge CB10 1SA (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **JONES, Colln**
[GB/GB]; c/o Genome Research Ltd, The Sanger Institute,
Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge

CB10 1SA (GB). **GAGE, Stephen** [GB/GB]; c/o Genome
Research Ltd, The Sanger Institute, Wellcome Trust
Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge CB10 1SA (GB).
PATEL, Kunal [GB/GB]; c/o Genome Research Ltd,
The Sanger Institute, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus,
Hinxton, Cambridge CB10 1SA (GB).

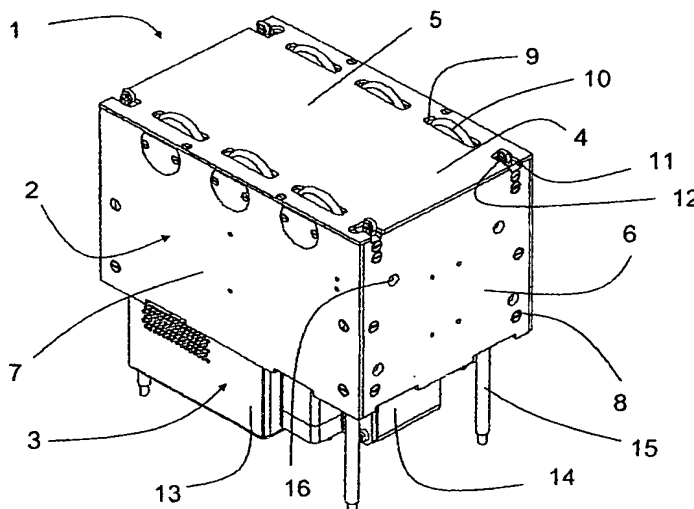
(74) Agent: **I.P. 21 LIMITED**; Norwich Research Park, Col-
ney, Norwich NR4 7UT (GB).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MODULAR UNITS



(57) Abstract: A modular unit (1) for transporting work pieces (40) and suitable for use in an array of such units, comprises a top (5); transportation means (10) which propel the work pieces onto and/or off said top (10) and against which the work pieces rest when located on the top (5) of the unit, the transportation means (10) being part of said top (5); in which the transportation means occupy one or more regions of the top (5) of the unit (1) whilst one or more remaining regions of the top are not occupied by transportation means (10) but are suitable for receiving a work piece treatment device.

WO 2005/056434 A3



European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE,

Published:

- with international search report
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

24 November 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.